

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
(Case No. 97,078-O)**

PATENT

In application of:)	
)	
Gocke <i>et al.</i>)	Before the Examiner:
)	K.R. Horlick
Serial No.)	
10/646,397)	
)	Group Art Unit: 1637
Filed:)	
August 22, 2003)	
)	
For:)	
Detection of Extracellular Tumor-)	
Associated Nucleic Acid in Blood)	
Plasma or Serum using Nucleic Acid)	
Amplification Assay)	

**RESPONSE TO THE OFFICIAL ACTION
MAILED MARCH 6, 2006**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Responsive to the Official Action mailed March 6, 2006, Applicants request reconsideration of their pending claims in light of the following amendments and remarks.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.121, Applicants set forth amendments to their specification beginning on page 2, and to their claims beginning on page 3. Applicants' remarks begin on page 10.